(d) if so, the reasons for not increasing the prices thereof in view of circumstances prevailing in the world market?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The private sector oil marketing companies are free to fix their prices of petrol and diesel.

(c) and (d) Although the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have raised the domestic consumer prices of petrol and diesel from time to time, taking into account the increase in international prices, other factors, including concern for relative domestic stability in the face of international volatility, have contributed to determining pricing policy. The steps taken by the Government to modulate the impact of volatility in the international prices on domestic consumer prices of petrol and deisel include *inter-alia* approving a price band mechanism as per which OMCs can effect price revisions based on the previous fortnight's average international price, provided that the exchange rate adjusted C&F (cost & freight) product price was within the band of ±10% around the mean of (a) last three months' rolling average prices; and (b) last one year's rolling average prices. In case the C&F prices breach the ceiling due to high volatility, OMCs would keep the prices in the band and approach the Government.

Government is constantly monitoring and keeping under careful review the prices of sensitive petroleum products.

New mobile laboratories in Andhra Pradesh

1285. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would increase the number of mobile laboratories to check adulteration of petroleum products at the rate of one for each district in Andhra Pradesh and two for Hyderabad city, as there are only two mobile laboratories available with oil companies to cover the entire State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) There are nine static and three mobile laboratories operating in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The State Government have been advised to ensure optimum utilization of the available capacity. However, in case of exigencies, the services of the laboratories situated in neighbouring States like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Orissa can also be utilized, as is being done in other regions.

Tourist Trade Act

1286. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the State Governments to enact the Tourist Trade Act in a move to protect tourists from being cheated and harassed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also asked the State Governments to deploy tourist police at all important tourist destinations to check crime against tourists;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the Centre shall bear the expenditure of the State Governments on deployment of tourist police at all tourist destinations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Governments of Goa, Daman & Diu, Kerala, J & K and Nagaland have enacted the Tourist Trade Act.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State/UT Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra, Daman, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, J & K, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have deployed Tourist Police Force at important tourist centres.

(e) There is no scheme in the Ministry of Tourism for extending Central